

## I CLAIM:

1. Method for distributing a program code to a plurality of measuring instruments (5-10), each of which is respectively coupled to a control computer (2-4) via a respective first bus (20), with each of the control computers (2-4) being coupled to a central computer (1) via a second bus (19), the central computer (1) being coupled with at least one of a storage-medium reading device (17) and an inter-regional network (25), said method having the following method steps:

Supplying the program code to the central computer (1) by at least one of: placing a storage medium (18) on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device (17) and transmitting the program code to the central computer (1) via the inter-regional network (25);

transmitting the program code from the central computer (1) via the second bus (19) to at least one control computer (2-4); and

transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer (2-4), that received the program code, via the first bus (20), to measuring instruments (5-10) coupled to the at least one control computer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the program code updates the firmware of the measuring routines of the measuring instruments (5-10).

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first bus (20) is one of a measuring bus and a serial interface.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second bus (19) in an intranet over which a plurality of control computers (2-4) are coupled with the central computer (1).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein program code is transmitted to the central computer (1) via the inter-regional network (25) and the inter-regional network (25) is the Internet.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the program code is supplied to the central computer (1) by placing the storage medium (18) on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device (17) and the storage medium is a CD-ROM.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) are provided and a target address is contained in the program code which determines for which type of measuring instrument (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) this program code is intended.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

there are a plurality of control computers and a plurality of different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9);

a list is stored in a memory (24) of the central computer (1) which catalogs to which of the control computers (2, 3, 4) the different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) are coupled; and

the central computer (1) transfers the program code via the second bus (19) only to the particular control computers (2, 3, 4) that are coupled with the type of measuring instrument (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) for which the program code is targeted.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein each control computer (2, 3 4) transmits information to the central computer (1) via the second bus (19) from which is determined the type of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) coupled to the particular control computer (2, 3, 4).